92

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

February 4, 1960

MEMO FOR MR. ALBERT P. TONER

THE WHITE HOUSE

The attached items are submitted by the Department of Defense for possible inclusion in the daily summary for the President.

These items have also been forwarded to Dr. Kistiakowsky.

O. M. Gale
Special Assistant

Attachment
3 items
2 - SN # 717
1 - Sup. to SN # 725

~~SECRET~~ 5:20p

WITH ATTACHMENTS

SEC DEF CONT NO. 5-103

R-2

06-M-0887

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3. Launch of DISCOVERER IX. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

DISCOVERER IX was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 1358 EST, 4 February 1960.

Major test objectives were: To place an instrumented bio-medical capsule in orbit; to recover the capsule from orbit on the 17th pass.

Liftoff and early trajectory were as planned. Preliminary indications are that the first stage THOR booster cut off approximately 20 seconds prematurely. Separation and ignition of second stage did occur; however, due to short burning time of THOR booster, orbital velocity and altitude were not achieved.

Explanation of the premature main engine cutoff on THOR booster must await data reduction and analysis.

(C. C. Darlington)
2/18/60

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5:20p

DoD 2-4-60